

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 17, and 19 are independent. In this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 17, and 19 have been amended. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Support for the amendment can be found on, for example, page 20, lines 5-19 of the specification. A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt, Jr. et al. ("Hunt") in view of Fuller and Koshi et al. ("Koshi").

In the statement of the rejection, the applied combination of Hunt, Fuller, and Koshi teaches the claimed invention. Hunt discloses that a raster image processor for an all points addressable marking engine includes a page memory having a data input and a write enable input. Fuller describes an apparatus determining the order of data communication between a plurality of peripheral devices and a central processor. Koshi discloses that in an image forming apparatus, memory capacity necessary for temporarily retaining image data is reduced.

However, Applicant submits that Hunt, Fuller, and Koshi, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a printing system including all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Based on Applicant's study of the references, the applied combination is silent on the following limitations of claim 1: "each of said plurality of unit controllers is configured for transferring the at least one separate plate data to said server controller," and "aid server controller is configured for storing said plurality of separate plate data received from said plurality of unit controllers."

According to the subject matter claimed, the server controller can store plate data created by the plurality of unit controllers. When a printing order is changed (for example, when an ink to be filling into printing units is changed), the server controller transfers the plate data to the corresponding printing units after changing the ink for executing printing output processing. It is, thus, possible to flexibly response to the change of the printing order related to color components. Even if printing output processing in order of Y, M, C, and K is changed, it is possible to respond to that change and execute printing output processing, for example, in order of C, M, Y, and K. The above cited limitations of claim 1 and the above-described advantages are not taught by Hunt, Fuller, and Koshi.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the applied combination of Hunt, Fuller, and Koshi does not teach a printing system including all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. The above discussion is applicable to independent claim 5 reciting "said server controller is configured for receiving and storing said plurality of separate plate data from said plurality of unit controllers," and claim 6 reciting "said unit controller is configured for transferring the at least one separate plate data to said server controller which stores the at least one separate plate data received." Dependent claims 3, 4, 8, and 10 are patentably distinguishable over Hunt, Fuller, and Koshi at least because these claims respectively include all the limitations recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 6. Claim 14 is also patentable because claim 11, upon which claim 14 depends, is patentably distinguishable over Hunt and Koshi as discussed below. Applicant, therefore, respectfully solicits withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and favorable consideration thereof.

Claims 7 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt, Fuller, and Koshi and further in view of well known prior art.

Applicant submits that the applied combination of Hunt, Fuller, Koshi, and well known art does not teach the claimed invention. Claims 7 and 9 depend from independent claims 1 and 5, respectively. Applicant incorporates herein the arguments previously advanced in responding to the rejection of claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Hunt, Fuller, and Koshi. The Examiner's additional comments and reference to the well known art do not cure the previously argued deficiencies in the applied combination of Hunt, Fuller, and Koshi. Applicant, therefore, respectfully solicits withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and favorable consideration thereof.

Claims 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt in view of Koshi.

Applicant submits that the applied combination of Hunt and Koshi does not teach the claimed invention. Independent claim 11 recites, "each of said plurality of unit controllers is configured for transferring the at least one separate plate data to said server controller," and "said server controller is configured for storing said plurality of separate plate data received from said plurality of unit controllers." Independent claim 17 also recites, "said server controller is configured for receiving and storing said plurality of separate plate data from said plurality of unit controllers," and independent claim 19 recites, "said unit controller is further configured for transferring the at least one separate plate data to said server controller which stores the at least one separate plate data received." Claims 13, 16, and 20 depend from claims 11 and 20.

Accordingly, Applicant incorporates herein the arguments previously advanced in responding to the rejection of independent claims 1, 5, and 6 (see the limitations recited in these claims) under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Hunt, Fuller, and Koshi. As set forth above, Hunt and Koshi are silent on the above cited limitations of claims 11, 17, and 19. Applicant, therefore, respectfully solicits withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and favorable consideration thereof.

Claims 15 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt and Koshi, and further in view of well known prior art.

Applicant submits that the applied combination of Hunt, Koshi, and well known art does not teach the claimed invention. Claims 15 and 18 depend from independent claims 11 and 17, respectively. Applicant incorporates herein the arguments previously advanced in responding to the rejection of independent claims 11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Hunt and Koshi. The Examiner's additional comments and reference to the well known art do not cure the previously argued deficiencies in the applied combination of Hunt and Koshi. Applicant, therefore, respectfully solicits withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and favorable consideration thereof.

Conclusion

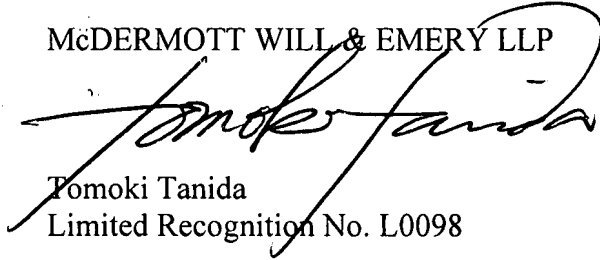
It should, therefore, be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

Application No.: 09/913,327

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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